NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Miami, Florida 33165

http://weather.gov/southflorida

Very Dry January with Near Normal Temperatures

February 1, 2012: Very dry conditions typical of La Niña were common across all of South Florida in January. Although January is typically a dry month, rainfall totals area-wide were most less than a quarter of an inch, with only a few spots receiving amounts upwards of a half of an inch. Two locations, South Bay and Hollywood Waste Water Plant, received no measureable precipitation in January. These low rainfall values made January 2012 among the 10 driest Januaries on record at almost all of the major climate sites.

Rainfall (in.) January 2012	
Ft. Lauderdale	0.20
Homestead	0.33
LaBelle	0.02
Miami	0.21
Miami Beach	0.17
Moore Haven	0.44
Naples	0.17
West Palm Beach	0.38

Rainfall Rankings January 2012	
Ft. Lauderdale (Since 1912)	7th Driest
Homestead (Since 1991)	3rd Driest
LaBelle (Since 1930)	3rd Driest
Miami (Since 1911)	7th Driest (Ties 1923)
Miami Beach (Since 1928)	8th Driest (Ties 1989)
Moore Haven (Since 1918)	
Naples (Since 1942)	9th Driest
West Palm Beach (Since 1888)	10th Driest

Following is a list of sites with January rainfall, departure from normal and rank:

Location	January 2012 Rainfall	January Departure from Normal and Rank
Palm Beach Int'l	0.38	-2.75 (10th driest)
Miami Int'l	0.21	- 1.41 (7th driest)
Fort Lauderdale Int'l	0.20	-3.43 (7th driest)
Naples Regional	0.17	-1.68 (9th driest)
Miami Beach	0.17	-1.75 (8th driest)
Moore Haven	0.44	-1.31 (21st driest)
Juno Beach	0.71	
Muse (Glades Co)	0.64	
Canal Point	0.37	-1.78 (9th driest)
Cape Florida	0.37	
Homestead General	0.33	-1.09 (3rd driest)
Brighton Res. (Glades Co)	0.24	
Marco Island	0.23	
Palm Beach Gardens	0.09	
NWS Miami (FIU Main)	0.09	
North Miami Beach	0.07	
Oasis Ranger Stn	0.07	
Big Cypress Res (Hendry)	0.07	
The Redland (Dade Co)	0.04	-2.10 (2nd driest)
Immokalee	0.03	
Ortona	0.02	
LaBelle	0.02	-2.02 (3rd driest)
South Bay (15 mi south)	0	
Hollywood Waste Water	0	-2.52

Almost all the rainfall in South Florida in January came in association with a frontal system which became stationary over the area from January 27-29. The initial push of the front into South Florida on the 27th brought some rainfall to areas around Lake Okeechobee as well as the Naples area, with post-frontal rains over parts of southeast Florida on January 29th.

Fort Lauderdale International Airport recorded 41 consecutive days without measureable precipitation from December 18 to January 27. This is the 6th longest streak of days without measurable precipitation at Fort Lauderdale. Other locations with long stretches without measureable precipitation include Miami International Airport with 29 days from December 15 to January 12 (13th longest streak on record) and Palm Beach International Airport with 26 days from December 28 to January 22 (30th longest streak on record).

The very dry January continues the trend this dry season of below normal precipitation totals. Since November 1, all of South Florida has received well-below-normal rainfall. The vast majority of the area has received less than half (50%) of the normal rainfall for the November to January period, with many

areas below 25% of normal. The November 2011 to January 2012 period ranked as the second driest on record at West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale, with other areas in the top 10.

The result of this dry period is the reinstating of moderate drought conditions over most of South Florida.

Below is a list of November 2011 to January 2012 rainfall totals, departure from normal and rank for select locations:

Location	**Nov 2011 – Jan 2012 Rainfall**	**Departure from Normal and Rank**
Palm Beach Int'l	2.61	-8.65 (2nd driest)
Miami Int'l	3.05	-3.88 (18th driest)
Fort Lauderdale Int'l	1.95	-7.38 (2nd driest)
Naples Regional	2.33	-3.01 (18th driest)
Miami Beach	2.79	-4.09 (11th driest)
Moore Haven	2.35	-2.83 (20th driest)
Juno Beach	6.20	
North Miami Beach	6.45	
Canal Point	3.64	-3.02
The Redland (Dade Co.)	2.20	-4.53 (4th driest)
LaBelle	1.31	-4.76 (3rd driest)
Marco Island	1.08	
Immokalee	0.78	

TEMPERATURES

An arctic cold front blasted through South Florida late on January 2nd, followed by several days of below normal temperatures. Highs on January 3rd remained in the 50s area-wide, setting the stage for the coldest morning on January 4th when temperatures dropped to below freezing away from the metro areas. Another rather strong front moved through the area on the 13th, with another night of freezing temperatures near and west of Lake Okeechobee late on the 13th and early on the 14th. The influence of these two fronts led to the first half of the month being several degrees below normal. However, no significant fronts affected the region during the second half of January, with mild easterly wind flow leading to several days of temperatures in the 80s. The end result was a near normal January temperature-wise across South Florida.

Following are the average January 2012 temperatures and departure from normal for the 4 main climate sites in South Florida:

- Miami International Airport had an average January temperature of 68.5 degrees Fahrenheit. This is 0.3 degrees above the 30-year normal for January. The lowest temperature recorded last month was 43 degrees on the 4th. The highest temperature recorded last month was 85 degrees on the 27th.

- Palm Beach International Airport had an average January temperature of 65.7 degrees Fahrenheit. This is right at the 30-year normal for January. The lowest temperature recorded last month was 39 degrees on the 3rd and 4th. The highest temperature recorded last month was 85 degrees on the 27th.

- **Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport** had an average January temperature of 68.5 degrees Fahrenheit. This is 0.5 degrees below the 30-year normal for January. The lowest temperature recorded last month was 42 degrees on the 4th. The highest temperature recorded last month was 86 degrees on the 27th.

- **Naples Municipal Airport** had an average January temperature of 65.2 degrees Fahrenheit. This is 0.7 degrees above the 30-year normal for January. The lowest temperature recorded last month was 36 degrees on the 4th. The highest temperature recorded last month was 83 degrees on the 25th and 26th.

OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL

The first 7 days of February will likely be near to above average temperature-wise with near normal precipitation. This could be followed by a cooling trend for the middle of the month along with a continuation of near normal precipitation. Looking longer-term at the February through April time frame, the Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) outlook calls for the likelihood of drier than normal conditions continuing across South Florida, typical of winter and spring La Niña conditions. This will likely result in further worsening of drought conditions over peninsular South Florida during the remainder of the dry season which typically ends in May. Monitor the NWS Miami Drought Page for continuous updates on precipitation and drought conditions across the area.

The CPC temperature outlook for February calls for equal chances of near, above or below normal temperatures over South Florida. La Niña patterns in the late winter and spring tend to favor warmer than normal temperatures, however a continuation of recent trends is the most likely scenario at this time, meaning temperatures possibly oscillating within 1 degree of normal in the long-term. February is usually the last month of freezing temperatures; therefore interests should keep a close watch on potentially damaging cold temperatures.

For the latest weather conditions, forecasts, warnings, advisories and statements, please visit the National Weather Service Miami-South Florida Forecast Office's web site at http://www.weather.gov/southflorida.